

SUBJ: Conversation with General Adolph Heusinger, 7 April 1957 (Cont')

10. Discussing the strain on German and U.S. relations which started, according to the Germans, with the "Madford Plan" and gained renewed intensity in the months immediately following Suez, Heusinger noted the definite split in the German Foreign Office with von Brentano and Hallstein frequently left out of important discussions between Chancellor Adenauer and the NATO Ambassador Blankenhorn—always in the presence of the ubiquitous Felix von Eckhardt.

11. In answering my question about the background of the Spiegel story of several months ago on the "Thinned-Out Zone" strategy which the Spiegel labelled "Heusinger's Idea", he stated that his ideas had not in any way changed since I had last had a talk with him on this theme in July 1956. He believes that a withdrawal of both Soviet and U.S. forces from Europe should come about, leaving a militarily "thinned-out zone", only after German reunification and with freely elected regimes established in both Poland and Czechoslovakia. Anything less than this would, he maintains, be militarily unacceptable in terms of European security.

12. Heusinger said that he was pleased to note that "Gehlen is now in and everything seems to be settled". Equally important, he described Colonel Wessel, Chief of the Military Security Service, as "one of my officers" which seems to indicate that the feud between Heusinger and his former deputy which developed over the influence of Kiehlmannsegg and Oster in the intelligence department of the Ministry has been amicably resolved. I commented on our obvious satisfaction with these developments and urged that Heusinger give some attention to getting the question of Defense Ministry and OIS relations in the ELINT and COMINT fields straightened out promptly to avoid losing costly years in these fields that might be vitally important in the next few years.

13. Inasmuch as Heusinger has had discussions with the Secretary of State, Assistant Secretary of Defense and numerous senior military officials during the past fortnight, I am not making a dissemination as intelligence of any of Heusinger's opinions.

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